

Application No. 10/085,408

the suction/discharge port to extend in a peripheral direction of the slip ring and open outside the slip ring cover.

2. (Amended) The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the wall has a first wall portion formed in a shape of an arc in cross section perpendicular to the rotary shaft, and a second wall portion formed inside the first wall portion, and the suction/discharge port is formed between the first wall portion and the second wall portion.

3. (Amended) The AC generator as in claim 2, wherein the first wall portion and the second wall portion overlap in the peripheral direction.

Please add new claims 22-35 as follows:

--22. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the wall extends in both the peripheral direction and an axial direction of the slip ring, and the suction/discharge port extends in the axial direction of the slip ring.--

--23. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the wall includes an inside wall portion and an outside wall portion provided at different positions in a radial direction of the slip ring to form the suction/discharge port therebetween.--

--24. The AC generator as in claim 23, wherein the outside wall portion has an end portion extending from the outside wall portion at a location radially outside the suction/discharge port.--

--25. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the wall has an outside wall portion provided radially outside the suction/discharge port to define an area of the suction/discharge port open to the outside, and an inside wall portion provided radially inside the suction/discharge port.--

--26. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the slip ring cover is provided opposite the brush holder with respect to the slip ring in a radial direction of the slip ring.--

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--27. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the suction/discharge port is located adjacent the slip ring in a radial direction of the slip ring.--

--28. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the suction/discharge port is located at a position different from a position of the brush in the peripheral direction of the slip ring.--

--29. The AC generator as in claim 1, wherein the wall extends in both an axial direction and the peripheral direction of the slip ring so that air flows in the peripheral direction over a width corresponding to a width of the brush in the axial direction.--

--30. The AC generator as in claim 29, wherein the suction/discharge port is in communication with an inside of the slip ring through more than two openings extending in the axial direction.--

--31. An AC generator for a vehicle, comprising:

a rotor having a rotary shaft, a field winding, and a slip ring provided on one end of the rotary shaft and electrically connected to the field winding;

a brush held in sliding contact with the slip ring;

a brush holder holding the brush therein; and

a slip ring cover disposed radially outside the slip ring to define jointly with the brush holder an inner space for accommodating the slip ring therein and circumferentially covering the slip ring, wherein the slip ring cover has a wall member defining an air passage that communicates the inner space and an outside of the slip ring cover, and the air passage extends in a circumferential direction of the slip ring.--

--32. The AC generator as in claim 31, wherein the air passage has a port opening toward the inner space and extending in an axial direction of the slip ring.--

--33. The AC generator as in claim 32, wherein the port extends over an entire width of the slip ring cover in the axial direction of the slip ring.--